

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 MCT-01 HA-05 /067 W
-----059047 201045Z /23

O R 200910Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8089
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 4069

CINCPAC: FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, AF
SUBJECT: AFGHAN REGIME DISPLAYS SENSITIVITY OVER HUMAN RIGHTS
CRITICISM

REF: STATE 127655

1. SUMMARY: THE NEW AFGHAN REGIME HAS REACTED TESTILY TO
INTERNATIONAL CRITICISM OF THE INCLUSION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN
AMONG THE POLITICAL PRISONERS IT IS HOLDING. END OF SUMMARY.

2. ON MAY 17, AN AFGHAN GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN LASHED OUT AT
"SOME FOREIGN REACTIONARY CIRCLES WHO SAVAGELY TRAMPLE HUMAN
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RIGHTS AND INTEGRITY, ENGAGE IN FAKE AND POISONOUS PROPAGANDA
IN AN INTRIGUING MANNER AGAINST THE UNPRECEDENTED LIBERATING
REVOLUTION OF THE PEOPLE OF AFGHANISTAN, AND, AMONG OTHER THINGS,
SAY THAT THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN (DRA) HAS
TREATED, OR TREATS, THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN OF THE NADERI DYNASTY
(E.E.M.N THE FORMER ROYAL INEAGE) IN A WAY THAT IS CONTRARY TO
HUMAN RIGHTS."

3. THE STATEMENT ASSERTED THAT "DURING THE GREAT REVOLUTION OF SAUR 7 (APRIL 17), A TOTAL OF FORTY PERSONS WERE KILLED (ON MAY 6, CHAIRMAN NOOR MOHAMMAD TARAHI TOLD THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS THAT 72 OR 73 WERE KILLED), INCLUDING TEN MEMBERS OF THE NADERI DYNASTY, WHO LOST THEIR LIVES AS A RESULT OF THE ORGANIZED AND ANTI-NATIONAL RESISTANCE OF MOHAMMAD DAOUD, WHO . . . NOT ONLY FIRED ON THE HEROIC OFFICER, WHO, WITH DUE CONSIDERATION TO MILITARY TRADITIONS, COMMUNICATED TO HIM THE MESSAGE OF THE LEADERSHIP OF THE REVOLUTION, BUT ALSO FIRED ON HIS CHILDREN, WHO, IN ORDER TO SURVIVE, BESSECHED HIM TO SURRENDER HIMSELF TO THE REVOLUTIONARIES." (TARAHI TOLD THE AMBASSADOR ON MAY 6 THAT THE DAOUD FAMILY, INCLUDING SOME WOMEN, ENGAGED IN A FIERCE SHOOT-OUT WITH ARRESTING TROOPS.)

4. THE SPOKESMAN ALSO NOTED THAT, " A SMALL NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE NADER AND DAOUD FAMILIES AND THEIR SHOE-LICKERS, WHO ARE IMPRISONED IN VIEW OF THEIR PROVOCATIVE AND ANTI-REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES, WILL BE TRIED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW AT THE REVOLUTIONARY COURT." IN THIS CONNECTION, THE STATEMENT ADDED: "A FEW CHILDREN AND WOMEN BELONGING TO THE NADER AND DAOUD FAMILIES ARE UNDER THE PROTECTION OF THE SECURITY FORCES ONLY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THEIR LIVES WITH DUE CONSIDERATION TO HUMAN INTEGRITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS, WITHOUT INFLICTING UPON THEM THE SLIGHTEST PHYSICAL OR SPIRITUAL DAMAGE, AND AN APPROPRIATE DECISION WILL BE ADOPTED REGARDING THEM IN EXPEDIENT CIRCUMSTANCES." CONFIDENTIAL

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5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH WE CANNOT BE CERTAIN WHAT TOUCHED OFF THIS TESTY DRA BLAST, WE ARE AWARE THAT SOME LOCAL ISLAMIC AMBASSADORS (E.G., THE EGYPTIAN, THE SAUDI ARABIAN, AND THE BANGLADESHI) HAVE MADE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMENTS TO HIGH OFFICIALS OF THE NEW REGIME. (IN ONE PARTICULAR CASE OF SUCCESSFUL INTER-CESSION FOR A SPECIFIC FAMILY, SAUDI ARABIAN AMBASSADOR SHAIKH ABDULLAH SALEH HABABI REMINDED TARAHI THAT AMONG MUSLIMS, JUSTICE IS IMPORTANT, BUT AN EVEN MORE IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION IS MERCY). ADDITIONALLY, THE LOCAL DIPLOMATIC WIVES' ASSOCIATION HAS BEEN DISCUSSING A SPECIAL APPROACH TO THE SOLE FEMALE MEMBER OF THE NEW CABINET, DR. ANAHITA RATEBZAD, MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS, ASKING HER TO INTERCEDE IN BEHALF OF THE IMPRISONED

WOMEN AND CHILDREN. THE WIVES HAVE NOT YET AGREED ON A COURSE OF ACTION WHICH WOULD GAIN THE APPROVAL OF THEIR HUSBANDS AND GOVERNMENTS. ONE OF THEM, A YUGOSLAV, THOUGHT IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSAL WITH THE WIFE OF THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR, WHO IS DEAN OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS. THAT MAY HAVE BEEN THE CHANNEL THROUGH WHICH THE AFGHANS HEARD ABOUT THIS PROPOSED INTERCESSION. WHATEVER THE CASE, THE DRA HAS REACTED WITH REMARKABLE SENSITIVITY.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, ALLEGATIONS, VIOLATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KABUL04069
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780212-1077
Format: TEL
From: KABUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780538/aaaabftr.tel
Line Count: 117
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a270179a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 127655
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2629823
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AFGHAN REGIME DISPLAYS SENSITIVITY OVER HUMAN RIGHTS CRITICISM
TAGS: SHUM, PGOV, PINS, AF
To: STATE TEHRAN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a270179a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014